

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Fayad et al.
Serial No. : 10/606,665
Filed : June 26, 2003

Art Unit : 3737
Examiner : Ashish S. Jasani
Conf. No. : 4805

Title : RAPID MULTISLICE BLACK BLOOD DOUBLE-INVERSION RECOVERY
TECHNIQUE FOR BLOOD VESSEL IMAGING

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CLARIFICATION TO OFFICIAL RECORD

REMARKS

In the notice of allowance of January 30, 2008, the examiner stated that "[a]uthorization for [the] examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's representative, Sivananda Reddy, on 16 January 2008."

However, authorization for the examiner's amendment was in fact given by the undersigned, Paul A. Pysher, in a submission prepared in response to a telephone call from the examiner, captioned "Amendment in response to telephone call of January 15, 2008." (enclosed) This submission was sent by e-mail to the examiner on January 16, 2008.

Nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 6, 2008



Paul A. Pysher
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Encl: Amendment in response to telephone call of January 15, 2008 (5 pages)

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AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO TELEPHONE CALL OF JANUARY 15, 2008

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of magnetic resonance imaging of blood vessel walls, comprising
administering a series of DIR preparation pulse modules at a repetition interval short enough that at least two DIR preparation pulse modules occur within each RR ~~a repetition time interval for a slice~~;
in the interval between each DIR preparation pulse module, acquiring image data for a plurality of slices; ~~and~~
repeating the data acquisition across a plurality of RR intervals ~~a plurality of repetition time intervals for a slice~~ to acquire images for the plurality of slices[.]; and
generating an output based on the images.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the repetition interval for the administered DIR modules is less than about 500 msec.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ an inversion time TI_0 is less than about 190 msec.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein image data acquisition extends across an interval that begins before and ends after the inversion time TI_0 .
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein image data acquisition occurs in an interval when longitudinal magnetization of blood is reduced to at least 10 percent of full longitudinal magnetization.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein image data acquisition is cardiac triggered.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein image data acquisition is untriggered.
8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the DIR modules comprises an inversion pulse followed by a reinversion pulse, and the reinversion pulse reinverts a plurality of the slices to be imaged.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the DIR modules consist of an inversion pulse followed by reinversion pulse that reinverts all of the slices to be imaged.

REMARKS

The applicants thank the examiner for the telephone call of January 15, 2008. During the call, the examiner suggested that claims 1 and 3 be amended to place the claims in condition for allowance.

Along the lines of the examiner's suggestion, claim 1 has been amended to recite language in the claim prior to the amendment of August 8, 2007. Claim 1 has also been amended to recite "generating an output based on the images." Finally, claim 3 has been amended to address an antecedent issue.

The applicants disavow any inference that might have been or be drawn from the earlier addition or deletion of language in claim 1, that the inclusion or deletion of the language was or is required for patentability of the claim.

Claims 1 to 9 are pending in this application of which claim 1 is independent. Each of the dependent claims is also believed to define patentable features of the invention. Each dependent claim partakes of the novelty of its corresponding independent claim and, as such, has not been addressed specifically herein. Allowance is respectfully requested at the examiner's earliest convenience.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed.

Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any other required fees to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the attorney docket number shown above.

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Page : 5 of 5

Attorney's Docket No.: 11006-012001 / Siemens 2003p09288us

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 16, 2008

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